



BURNS INTERAGENCY FIRE ZONE

28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738
(541) 573-4545 (p), (541) 573-4410 (f)
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire/index.php>

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2007

Contact: Tara Martinak

Release No. OR-020-07-45

COOLER TEMPERATURES BRING REDUCED FIRE RESTRICTIONS TO HARNEY COUNTY

HINES, Oregon – Cooler temperatures and a small amount of moisture over the last several days prompted Federal officials to re-evaluate fire restrictions currently in place within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ). Discussions resulted in a decision to reduce the Industrial Fire Precaution Level to 3 and permit campfires in designated campgrounds effective tomorrow, Wednesday, August 22.

The Industrial Fire Precaution Level 3, partial shutdown, prohibits the following except as indicated:

- cable yarding - except for gravity operated logging systems employing non-motorized carriages operating between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time when all blocks and moving lines are suspended 10 feet above the ground except the line between the carriage and the chokers;
- power saws - except power saws used at loading sites and on tractor/skidder operations between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time (firewood cutting is prohibited)

Re-authorizing campfires in designated campgrounds comes just one week after an area-wide campfire ban was put in place. Hunters and other public land users will be glad to see this restriction lifted as Harney County eases into September. Fall weather is just around the corner, but visitors shouldn't be fooled by the cooler conditions. BIFZ Fire Management Officer Mike Morcom says, "It's a risky time of year for the recreating public. Fire danger is still very high, and the small amount of moisture we received earlier in the week wasn't enough to end wildfire season. Our fuels have been at record dry levels all summer long, which means they need more moisture than usual to reach a non-burning point."

Although lightning is responsible for many of the wildfires in Harney County, human caused fires are a concern as well. Use restrictions, including the limitation of campfires to designated campgrounds, remain in place. All off-road vehicle travel, smoking out of doors, lighting fireworks, and parking or driving a vehicle or operating an internal combustion motor in areas not free of vegetation are prohibited.

For more information call (541) 573-4400.

